

Convention Bedlam of Cheers, Jeers, Catcalls and Hisses

FIRST STRUGGLE WON BY THE TAFT FORCES

ROOSEVELT'S FLOOR LEADERS

(Continued from First Page.)

that echoed through the entire hall. New Jersey, another Roosevelt delegation, took up the cry. Led by a stalwart "yell master," the New Jerseyites shouted: "Hah, rah, rah, who are we? We are the delegates from New Jersey!" "Are we in it?" "Must you wait?" "Till we give Teddy twenty-eight straight!"

For a moment of the hall the rival yells burst forth. The music from the band up near the roof of the great hall was drowned in the cries from the well drilled delegations. The band swung into "Marching Through Georgia," and the delegates from Florida, Ohio, upon their chairs and sang. As the song concluded they shouted a yell of defiance at the Roosevelt delegates from New Jersey, seated across the aisle.

A moment later the Jerseyites returned the yell as the band struck up "Marching Through Georgia." A scattered cheer greeted the song. Charles F. Taft, brother of the President, visited the Texas delegates and asked them to "sit firm in the boat." He also visited several other delegations and then went to be greeted by Roosevelt cheers.

At 2:15 minutes of 3:1 practically all of the delegates were on the floor, but many of them either had not located or had not taken their seats. The aisles were choked, and there was much confusion.

Charles D. Hilles, President Taft's secretary, made his appearance on the convention platform before 11 o'clock. His countenance showed no concern. Members of the Republican National Committee made their appearance before 1 o'clock. Former Governor Murphy, of New Jersey, was one of the first; then came Charles F. Brooks, of Connecticut, and F. W. Estabrook, of New Hampshire. Even at 11 o'clock, when the platform was filling up with distinguished leaders of the party, Sergeant-at-Arms Stone was cool, looking after last details.

Chairman Pounds for Order. Victor Roosevelt began pounding for order at 12:02 P. M. The band was playing at the time, and it was with some difficulty that the musicians could be induced to desist. Finally they did so, and then Sergeant-at-Arms Stone called for his assistants to clear the aisles.

"Officer, please assist," he said, turning to the hundreds of more blue coats in front of the platform. "Sit down, sit down!" cried the people in the galleries, who were anxious for the proceedings to begin.

W. W. "Pudge" Hoffendyke, of Minneapolis, the famous former Yale football guard, led the attack on the aisle crowds. He was acting as an assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. Meanwhile, Roosevelt took an occasional look at the band, with his gavel.

Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth and Congressman Longworth occupied advantageous seats right back of the west section of the press stands. The former president's daughter came in quietly, and without attracting the attention of the crowd. The box reserved for special guests was repeatedly scanned by spectators for sight of some members of the Colonel's family, but it was some time before M. M. Longworth was located in the tier of spectators' seats.

Kenneth Roosevelt was the first of Colonel Roosevelt's family to arrive at the hall. He came in with E. H. McConchick, of Chicago, one of the Illinois Roosevelt leaders.

Governor Hadley, of Missouri, the Roosevelt floor leader, took a position with the Illinois delegation, equally as commanding as that occupied by James E. Watson, of Indiana, the Taft floor leader.

Roosewater at last got the attention of the delegates with the assistance of the ringing clink with his big voice and a microphone.

"Good afternoon," he said, in a staccato, paper, "and I am glad to see you here. The convention will be in order while Roy, Father Callahan will invoke divine blessing."

The introduction of the clergyman was greeted with applause. The prayer was short. During its delivery, Roosevelt kept a close eye on the minister and on the body of delegates.

The prayer of Father Callahan was as follows:

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

"Oh, Almighty, eternal and all-wise God, direct all our actions by Thy holy inspiration, so that every prayer and every word of ours may always begin from Thee, and by Thee be happily ended, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen."

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

Many delegates murmured the Lord's Prayer with Father Callahan.

As Father Callahan concluded, Chairman Roosevelt pounded the table with his big gavel, and announced:

"The secretary of the Republican National Committee will read the call of this convention."

Scarcely had the convention been called to order when Colonel Roosevelt went to a room in his hotel, where a private telephone wire to the floor of the convention hall had been installed, and by this method took personal command of his forces on the convention floor.

Secretary Hayward read the call. The moment the call was completed, Governor Hadley, of Missouri, the Roosevelt leader, was on his feet.

"Mr. Chairman," he called out.

"The chair," recognized Governor Hadley, of Missouri, said Chairman Roosevelt.

"Mr. Chairman, I rise to a question of information," said Hadley.

The Governor was beckoned to the stage, and made his way there amid applause.

James E. Watson, of Indiana, Taft floor leader, followed him.

In the meantime, William Barnes, of New York, was on his feet.

"I make a point of order," he shouted, but was not recognized.

Governor Hadley then stated his question, which involved the substitution of a roll of delegates prepared by the Roosevelt forces for the temporary roll prepared by the national committee.

"I rise to inquire whether the national committee has framed for this convention a proper temporary roll," said Hadley.

James E. Watson, Taft floor leader, interrupted saying:

"Mr. Chairman, I make it a point of order that nothing is in order before this convention until it has been organized."

"The point of order seems to be well taken," said Roosevelt, "but if the Governor will address himself to the point of order, we will hear him for twenty minutes, not wishing to be arbitrary."

Governor Hadley called to the platform Governor Deen, of Illinois, and former Governor Fort, of New Jersey.

Sergeant-at-Arms Stone announced to the delegates that each state would be heard for twenty minutes.

"I assert," said Governor Hadley, "that the question is whether the national committee of the Republican party has the absolute power to form a temporary roll for this convention, which can only be changed by a report from a committee of this convention, or whether this convention itself shall say who shall sit in it."

"If it is in the power of the twenty-seven men to say who shall sit in this convention, arbitrarily and without appeal, then we have reached the end of representative government in this country."

A round of cheers greeted this attack on the national committee. The delegates listened to Hadley with quiet attention.

"We know but one government in this country," he said, "government by political party."

"If a political convention can be controlled by a group of men within the party, then have we established political oligarchy; then have we given a few men control over party and convention."

Governor Hadley said he had ample precedent for the action he demanded.

In 1861, he said, the convention "in its own right to conduct its own business in its own way, overthrew the national committee's selection of a temporary chairman."

Must Hear Public Voice. "We cannot sit and close our ears



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"As long as we do not fairly discuss this matter, any man who goes out of this convention with the nomination will bear a tainted nomination, and will not receive the support of the American people."

"I do not say that these charges are true," said Hadley. "I sit in that committee and know some of them are true. But true or false, let us meet them here. Let us see why fifteen members of the committee believe their votes fraudulent and void. Just so sure as you neglect to meet that question and settle it honestly, the American people will say that you have failed in your duty."

"We say that this convention should not proceed to the regular business of this meeting until it has decided this question, decided whether the charges of corruption are true, and purged the roll of this convention of those fraudulently elected delegates."

Hadley closed in a storm of applause, and Governor Fort, of New Jersey, took the stand. As the cheering subsided at the conclusion of Governor Hadley's speech, Governor Fort took up the argument.

Fort did not get far in his argument before the crowd began to laugh and interrupt him with cries of "sit down." Fort made the mistake of answering the galleries, who clearly had a big preponderance of Taft sympathizers. The Roosevelt people claimed they were packed. Mr. Fort was constantly in trouble after that.

"That's right," he shouted. "Try to make me sit down when he is here fighting fraud."

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"This is a question of order in this convention, on one hand," said Payne, "and possibly chaos on the other."

"How about the Payne tariff bill?" shouted a voice from the gallery, and cheer, mixed with jeers, held up Payne's talk for some time.

Mr. Payne made a historical argument to show that the convention could not possibly proceed to take any action without a temporary organization.

"Suppose this question is put, who will vote on it?" asked Representative Payne.

"Thieves, thieves!" called out members of the California delegation.

"Shall the roll made up by the national committee vote?" he continued. "Cries of 'No, no!' sounded from the hall."

"Or the roll made up by the gentleman from Missouri?" Governor Hadley started forward. "Do you want me to answer that?" he asked.

"Hadley, Hadley!" shouted some Roosevelt enthusiasts.

"You see you run right into chaos," declared Payne. "Mr. Chairman, I am glad to know the Republican party," continued Payne, "has always stood for order. I am opposed to going into the chaos business in this convention at this time."

He sat down amid a round of applause. Throughout the arguments the floor and galleries were disorderly, and each speaker was often interrupted by cheers, jeers and remarks.

When Floor Leader Watson took up the argument the Taft forces gave a great yell. Watson waited for order. Then he reviewed Governor Hadley's proposition and the precedents cited by him.

"What is the relation of the national committee to the national convention?" said Watson.

"Robbers!" came a shout from the galleries.

He Nominates Root.

"I nominate Elihu Root for temporary chairman."

A storm of applause swept floor and galleries at the mention of Root's name.

Watson moved to lay the appeal of Governor Hadley on the table. Ruling on the point of order against Hadley's motion, Roosevelt said: "The chairman has several days and has consulted many men of better parliamentary knowledge than himself." Roosevelt then announced that he was ready to rule.

The chair sustains the point of order," he said, "and declares the motion of Governor Hadley out of order."

"I appeal from the decision of the chair," shouted Hadley.

"I second the motion," added Fort.

"And I move that the motion be laid on the table," interjected Watson. The convention was in an uproar.

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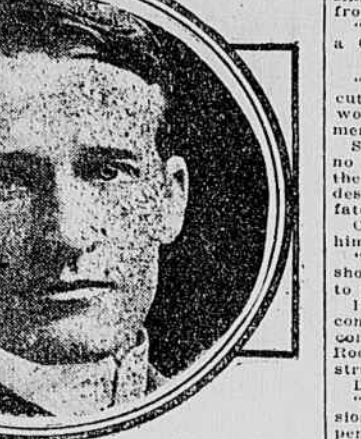
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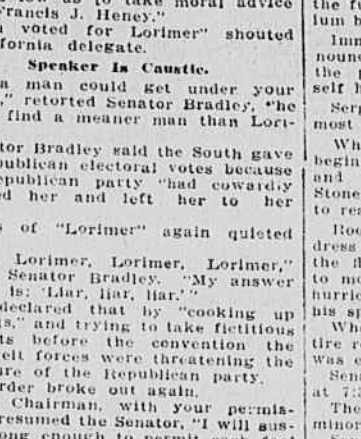
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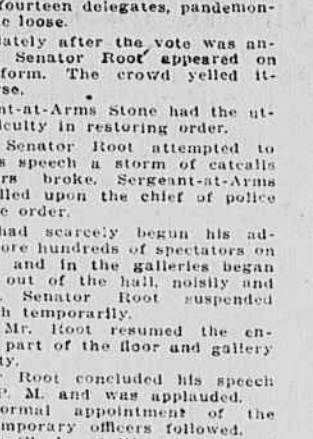
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